Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee  
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine  

March 5, 2007  

Call to Order  

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Art Geller, at 12:11 PM on March 5, 2007, in the Hyman building, Room 101.  

Attendance  

The following members were present:  

Louisa Balazs, MD, PhD, Jack Buchanan, MD, Maggie DeBon, PhD, Allen S. Edmonson, MD, Art Geller, PhD, Stanley Kaplan, MD, E. Haavi Morreim, PhD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Elias A. Giraldo, MD, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Christopher M. Waters, PhD, Robert S. Waters, PhD, Thad Wilson, PhD  

The following guest(s) was (were) present:  

(none)  

Approval of minutes  

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means. A hard copy of the minutes was available for review by the members.  

New Business  

Pres. Geller briefly noted the recent requests made by Sandra Mays, Vice Chancellor for Public Relations, Communication and Marketing, that UT faculty and staff contact her office prior to responding to requests by the press. The reasons for, and the kind and extent of enforcement, were not fully known to DFAC members and it is hoped that she will be able to join a DFAC meeting in the near future.  

Pres. Geller then observed that, among graduating medical students, a fairly consistent concern is that the third and fourth years are regarded much more highly than the first two years. Dr. Owen Phillips, in the Dean's Office, is attempting to address this challenge. Discussion within the DFAC indicated that some subjects, such as biochemistry, may be inherently more difficult, particularly in light of students' overall goals of actively practicing as physicians. Nevertheless, graduating students have indicated that their earlier basic learning is invoked during the clinical years in medical problem-solving. Though its value is not immediately apparent, the value eventually becomes more evident. Further discussion focused on strategies for enhancing the connections between basic sciences and clinical learning. One option may be to involve upper-level students in an effort to show first- and second-year students realistic clinical scenarios in which the basic science information is required to address the patient's problem. Additionally, it might be possible to place greater emphasis on the basic science connections during the clerkships, or to provide useful feedback to faculty who are teaching those courses.
Pres. Geller then selected a nominating committee, composed of Drs. Rosenthal, Giraldo, and Myers, to identify a slate of prospective officers for next year's DFAC.

The DFAC also briefly discussed how best to bring faculty questions and concerns to the CoM Deans' offices. Such issues may include, for instance, financial priorities at the CoM, progress on filling vacant chairs in departments, and the like.

Old Business

Regarding the Dean's Symposium on April 13, Pres. Geller indicated that Dr. Kitabchi will participate as originally planned, notwithstanding a recent illness. Pres. Geller indicated that he now has additional information about costs for prior symposia, for things such as refreshments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on April 2, 2007, at 12:00 Noon in the Hyman building, Room 101.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, PhD
Secretary